

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 14216 01 OF 02 051038Z

12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14

EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SCEM-02 SR-02

ORM-03 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /170 W
----- 036465

O P 051020Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6114

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 14216

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, XF, NL, SA, EEC, UK

SUBJECT: SAUDI REPORT ON YAMANI MEETING WITH DUTCH IN
BRUSSELS DECEMBER 1

REF: THE HAGUE 5280; BRUSSELS 6993

1. SAUDI AMBASSADOR HELAISSI HAS GIVEN US HIS ACCOUNT
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PAGE 02 LONDON 14216 01 OF 02 051038Z

OF YAMANI-ABDESSALAM MEETING WITH DUTCH ECONOMICS

MINISTER. IT IS GENERALLY CONSISTENT WITH REPORTS FROM DUTCH SOURCES IN REFTELS, BUT POINT OF VIEW IS DIFFERENT. SAUDIS SOUND AS IF THEY HAVE TAKEN UMBRAGE AT DUTCH NEGATIVISM AND APPEAR UNAWARE THAT MEETING GREW OUT OF A BELGIAN INITIATIVE NOT A DUTCH ONE (BRUSSELS REFTEL).

2. ACCORDING TO HELAISSI, YAMANI WAS SUFFERING FROM LEG TROUBLE AND COULD NOT GO TO MEET THE MINISTER. DUTCH MINISTER, ACCOMPANIED BY FONOFF POLITICAL DIRECTOR, AT OWN REQUEST CALLED ON YAMANI IN HIS HOTEL ROOM. DUTCH MINISTER STARTED OFF ON WRONG FOOT BY STATING HE HAD COME TO DISCUSS DUTCH ECONOMIC PROBLEM, NOTHING ELSE. YAMANI WAS TAKEN ABACK AND REPLIED HE WAS NOT AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS ECONOMICS. CURRENT PROBLEM WAS POLITICAL. HE WOULD WILLINGLY DISCUSS THAT IF MINISTER WISHED. MINISTER THEN TURNED CONVERSATION OVER TO FONOFF POLITICAL DIRECTOR.

3. A LITTLE LATER IN DISCUSSION YAMANI ASKED A QUESTION. INSTEAD OF REPLYING, LUBBERS ASKED YAMANI WHY ARABS WANTED TO EXTERMINATE ISRAEL. HE LAUNCHED INTO LONG MONOLOGUE IN DEFENSE OF ISRAEL, TO WHICH YAMANI DID NOT DEIGN TO RESPOND.

4. AS MEETING CONCLUDED, DUTCH MINISTER ASKED IF GROUP COULD BE PHOTOGRAPHED TOGETHER. THIS WAS DONE. THEN LUBBERS WENT DOWN TO HOTEL LOBBY AND ANNOUNCED TO WAITING REPORTERS, ACCORDING TO HELAISSI, THAT YAMANI AND HE HAD AGREED ON EVERY POINT. WHEN REPORTERS CALLED YAMANI TO CONFIRM, HE TOLD THEM THEY HAD DISAGREED ON EVERY POINT.

5. HELAISSI SUMMED THIS UP AS AN AMAZING PERFORMANCE FOR THE DUTCH. HE WONDERED WHY DUTCH GOVERNMENT MADE SUCH EFFORTS TO MEET YAMANI IF IT PLANNED TO BEHAVE SO NEGATIVELY. HE COULD ONLY CONCLUDE THAT DUTCH WANTED TO MEET SO THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE FURTHER PUBLIC EXCUSE FOR THEIR INTRANSIGENT STAND.

6. THEN AMBASSADOR HELAISSI MADE STRONG, PLEA TO US (WHICH HE REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES IN COURSE OF LONG DIS-

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PAGE 03 LONDON 14216 01 OF 02 051038Z

CUSSION) TO GIVE DUTCH WHAT HE TERMED WISE COUNSEL. HE SAID DUTCH ARE IN PROCESS OF RUINING OIL PROSPECTS FOR ALL OF EUROPE. THEY WILL IN ANY CASE FORCE DEVELOPMENT

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PAGE 01 LONDON 14216 02 OF 02 051037Z

16

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6115

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 14216

OF ALTERNATIVE PORT AND REFINING CAPACITIES TO REPLACE
ROTTERDAM. DESPITE OUR PROTESTATIONS THAT DUTCH (AS
THEY PROVED IN WORLD WAR II) ARE PROUD, STUBBORN PEOPLE
WHO WILL NOT EASILY BE INFLUENCED ONCE THEY HAVE DECIDED
THEIR OWN PROPER COURSE, HE SAID ALL ARABS WANT IS "ONE
DECLARATION." SAUDIS HAVE JUST LEARNED OF INCREASED
DUTCH CONTRIBUTION TO UNRWA FOR PALESTINIAN REFUGEES.
IF THIS COULD BE FOLLOWED UP WITH GOVERNMENT DECLARATION
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PAGE 02 LONDON 14216 02 OF 02 051037Z

ALONG LINES OF EEC DECLARATION HELAISSI FELT SURE ARABS
WOULD BE SATISFIED. WE WERE NONCOMMITTAL.

7. FINALLY, HELAISSI MENTIONED IN PASSING HIS DOUBTS
THAT BRITISH OR FRENCH WOULD SHARE THEIR OIL SUPPLIES
WITH DUTCH. HE SAID HE KNEW THERE WAS TALK OF US SHARING
WITH DUTCH BUT DOUBTED THAT TOO (SIC). HE SAID BRITISH
HAD PROVIDED YAMANI DURING RECENT VISIT HERE WITH DATA ON
SHORTFALL. THEIR PROBLEM WAS NOT CRUDE, OF WHICH HE
THOUGHT THEY PRESENTLY HAVE MORE THAN THEY CAN USE, BUT
PETROLEUM PRODUCTS. THIS MEANT BRITISH AND FRENCH WILL
MOVE FAST TO ESTABLISH SUBSTITUTE REFINING CAPACITY IF
ROTTERDAM GOES OUT OF BUSINESS. (COMMENT: EMBASSY
UNDERSTANDS THAT AT PRESENT BRITISH HAVE 4-5 PERCENT
SPARE REFINING CAPACITY AND THUS COULD USE ADDITIONAL
CRUDE. HOWEVER, SHORTFALL OF PETROLEUM PRODUCT IMPORTS
FROM ROTTERDAM IS IN FACT SUBSTANTIALLY GREATER--IN
ORDER OF 8-10 PERCENT OF TOTAL UK CONSUMPTION OF 2
MILLION BARRELS A DAY.)

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